

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of debugging code having associated data in a repository, comprising:
 - initiating a debugging session for the code;
 - accessing the associated data in the repository during the debugging session;and
 - determining whether the associated data can be displayed during the debugging session.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises determining whether the associated data can be provided to a debugger user interface.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining that the associated data cannot be displayed during the debugging session; and
 - outputting text characters on an output screen indicative of the associated data without revealing a value of the associated data.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing a restricted data table created in response to reading the associated data from the repository and according to predefined access restriction rules.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed is performed by a debugging program.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed is performed by a debugging program implementing access restriction rules defining at least one rule preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing access restriction rules defining at least one rule preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing a parse expression defining a data format and an output expression defining a restricted portion of the parse expression.

9. A computer-readable medium containing a debug program which, when executed, performs an operation during debugging code having associated data in a repository, the operation comprising:

accessing the associated data in the repository; and
determining whether the associated data can be displayed.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises determining whether the associated data can be provided to a debugger user interface.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, further comprising:
determining that the associated data cannot be displayed; and
outputting text characters on an output screen indicative of the associated data without revealing a value of the associated data.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing a restricted data table created in response to reading the associated data from the repository and according to predefined access restriction rules.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing access restriction rules

defining at least one rule preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises referencing a parse expression defining a data format and an output expression defining a restricted portion of the parse expression.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein accessing the associated data in the repository comprises reading a record and wherein determining whether the associated data can be displayed comprises:

referencing access restriction rules defining at least one rule preventing at least one field value from being displayed; and

determining whether the record contains the at least one field value.

16. A computer-readable medium containing a debug program which, when executed, performs an operation of debugging code having associated data in a repository, the debug program comprising:

a debugger user interface; and

a debug engine configured to selectively pass data to the debugger user interface according to predefined access restriction rules defining at least one rule preventing at least a portion of the associated data from being displayed to a user.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the debug engine is configured to:

determine that the associated data cannot be displayed during the debugging session; and

cause the user interface to output text characters on an output screen indicative of the associated data without revealing a value of the associated data.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the debug engine is configured to selectively pass data to the debugger user interface by referencing a

restricted data table created in response to reading the associated data from the repository and according to the predefined access restriction rules.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one rule defines a value and an associated value, wherein if the associated value has been displayed the debug engine will not provide the value to the debugger user interface for display.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one rule defines a parse expression defining a data format and an output expression defining a restricted portion of the parse expression, whereby all values having restricted portion will not be provided to the debugger user interface for display.